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Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
Creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development

Statement submitted by Osservatorio per la Comunicazione Culturale e l'Audiovisivo nel Mediterraneo e nel Mondo, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2006/100.

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Statement

The VI Infopoverty Conference,

Conscious of the fact that digital revolution could transform societies in generating productive employment and decent work for all;

Reaffirming the new forms of international assistance and support that provides opportunities to create a larger impact on the living conditions of people living in the rural developing countries;

Recognizing that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can become the engine of growth, and that their diffusion should be accessible to all countries, particularly the low-income countries;

Recognizing the importance, as a tool for self-sustainable development through ICTs, of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), signed during the Tunis WSIS by ITU, Navajo Nation and OCCAM;

Also Recognizing that the role played by the Infopoverty Programme promoted by Observatory Cultural and Audiovisual (OCCAM) for the creation of ICT Villages Services provided such as telemedicine, e-learning, e-commerce – have begun to contribute to the process of poverty eradication and improvement of living conditions particularly in low-income countries, and for disadvantaged communities and indigenous peoples.

The VI Infopoverty Conference decides to:

Appreciate the continued patronage of the President of the Italian Republic for the realization of the Infopoverty World Conferences;

Congratulate the President of the Dominican Republic for the realization of the ICT Village of Constanza and the President of Madagascar for the realization of the ICT Village of Sambaina as prototype of implementation of country-wide projects;

Also Congratulate the President of the Navajo Nation for the successful implementation of its ICT system on all Navajo territories, under a concept of technology with tradition and preservation of values and culture; this could be a model to replicate in other parts of the world toward reaching self sustainable development;

Recommends the creation of a broadband satellite platform able to provide basic e-services for development such as telemedicine, e-learning, e-governance;

Call on all stakeholders to support the following initiatives recommended by the VI Infopoverty Conference:

- *Invite ICT users* (NGOs, public and private institutions) to converge and create homogeneous bulk purchases in order to improve services according to their needs at lower costs and plan GRID-Centres of Excellence to research and develop innovative tools and services fit to the needs of developing and emerging countries

- *Invite* institutions active in the field of international development assistance to devote a significant percentage of their development assistance projects aimed at bridging the digital divide

- *Call* on ICT industries to donate/ sell at very low costs hardware, software and services in order to facilitate access to the digital revolution to the developing countries, particularly low-income countries; to promote and diversify cooperation with the ECOSOC pilot countries of the United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development and the Global Compact

- *Requests* OCCAM to report at the VII Infopoverty Conference a report on the progress achieved in mobilizing support and its impact on the identified countries for partnerships and to convene leaders at the highest level from countries that can share their experiences and challenges in the fight against poverty through connectivity